

CLAIMS

1. A system for specifying a sensor holder (1-4) for the creation of an image of an object (20), which sensor holder (1-4) supports a digital sensor (5-7) of dental X-ray apparatus (21), comprising
 - an input and display device (23, 24) for interactive control of the system, wherein a schematic image (10) of the object (20) to be X-rayed can be displayed on the display device (24),
 - means (25, 26) for selecting the sensor holder (1-4) and/or sensor (5-7) for creating the desired image of the object (20), and
 - a processing unit (22), which automatically generates the schematic image (10) for the selected sensor holder (8) on the basis of the desired image of the object (20) and displays said schematic image on the display device (24).
2. A system for specifying a sensor holder (1-4) for the creation of an image of an object (20), wherein the sensor holder (1-4) supports a digital sensor (5) of dental X-ray apparatus (21), comprising
 - an input and display device (23, 24) for interactive control of the system, there being displayed on the display device (24) a general image (11) containing a large number of possible objects to be X-rayed (12),
 - means (23.1, 23.2) for selecting the object to be X-rayed with reference to the general image (11), and
 - a processing unit (22), in which different sensor holders and, optionally, associated sensors are stored in storage areas (25, 26), and which automatically selects a suitable sensor holder (1-4) and, optionally, an associated sensor (5-7) on the basis of the desired image of the object (20) and displays same on the display device (24).

3. A system as defined in claim 1 or claim 2, characterized by a general image in the form of a digital X-ray image (11), from which it can be seen what area of the object will be imaged when the selected sensor holder is used.
- 5 4. A system as defined in claim 3, characterized in that the selected area (12) is high-lighted in color.
- 10 5. A system as defined in any one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that, in an overview, a large number of sensor holders are displayed which are differentiated by colors, symbols, and/or shapes.
- 15 6. A system as defined in any one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the selection of the sensor holder (1-4) is effected semiautomatically by presenting means (23.1, 23.2) which permit the selection of a preset area (12) of the object (20), that a storage area (25) is provided for various sensor holders (1-4), and that comparative means are present by means of which suitable sensor holders (1-4) can be specified.
- 20 7. A system as defined in any one of claims 1 to 6, characterized by means (27, 28) which, following the selection of the sensor holder (1-4), transfer the selection data to the X-ray apparatus (21).
- 25 8. A system as defined in one or more of claims 1 to 7, characterized by a PC controlled by software to realize the desired functionality.
9. X-ray apparatus (21), characterized by a computer interface (28) for the reception of selected data transmitted by a system as defined in any one or more of the previous claims, wherein the X-ray apparatus exhibits means (29), for identifying sensors (5-7) and/or sensor holders (1-4) comprising identifying means (30, 31) and for ascertaining whether a selected sensor holder (1-4) and/or sensor (5-7) is/are used.
- 30 10. The X-ray apparatus defined in claim 9, characterized in that the X-ray apparatus

will not create an image unless the correct combination of sensor holder and/or sensor is used.

11. The X-ray apparatus as defined in claim 10, characterized in that said means (29)
5 comprise optical, electrical, and/or mechanical sensors.
12. A method of specifying a sensor holder for the creation of an image of an object,
wherein the sensor holder supports a digital sensor of dental X-ray apparatus,
comprising
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- a first step, in which the sensor holder is selected,
 - a second step, in which the sensor is assigned to a sensor holder,
 - 15 - a third step, in which a schematic image is computed, based on the position of the selected sensor holder and on the sensor used, from which schematic image it can be seen what area of the object will be imaged when the selected sensor holder is used, and
 - 20 - a fourth step, in which the schematic image thus generated is displayed in a general display and the area of the general display covered by the schematic image is optically high-lighted.
13. A method of specifying a sensor holder for the creation of an image of an object,
25 wherein the sensor holder supports a digital sensor of dental X-ray apparatus, comprising
- a first step, in which a large number of possible objects to be X-rayed is displayed in a general display,
 - 30 - a second step, in which a number of objects to be X-rayed is selected from a plurality of objects shown in the general display, and
 - a third step, in which a sensor holder and, optionally, an associated sensor

is/are assigned to each of the objects to be X-rayed and a template is shown.

14. A method as defined in claim 13, characterized by a fourth step, in which the
5 template is moved across the general display for purposes of control and thus the
imaging area appertaining to the template is revealed,
- wherein the third and fourth steps are iteratively continued until a suitable
combination of holder and imaging area is displayed.
- 10 15. A method as defined in any one of claims 12 to 14, characterized in that the gen-
eral display is an X-ray image and that the object to be X-rayed is selected from
an X-ray image, preferably an X-ray image of the patient to be examined.
- 15 16. A data medium, containing a data structure that is capable of running on a com-
puter to carrying a method as defined in any one or more of the preceding method
claims into effect.
17. Software as defined in any one or more of the preceding method claims.